THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The measures for the uplift of the well being of the labour force of the country are part of on-going process of which legislative and developmental actions are taken up from time to time to improve their conditions depending upon the availability of resources and infrastructure.

(c) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has already established a 500 bedded Hospital at Coimbatore and a 50 bedded Hospital at Sivakasi exclusively for beneficiaries of ESI Scheme. At present, there is no proposal for construction of Hospitals in the above mentioned places.

Schemes / Programmes for Welfare of Child Labour

857. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes and programme formulated and being implemented by Government in the country for welfare of child labour; and

(b) the funds allocated for implementation of the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under NCLP is running special schools / centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. So far 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned in child labour endemic states for the coverage of about 2.10 lakhs children withdrawn from work. Under the Scheme of grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of Children withdrawn from work.

(b) An amount of Rs. 249.60 crore has been allocated for implementation of child labour schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Unemployed People in the Country

858. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the number of unemployed people in the country;

(b) if so, the annual rate of increase in unemployment; and

(c) the likely annual rate of increase in unemployment during the next decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Estimates of Employment and Unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time. As per the Surveys conducted during 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the unemployment rate which was of the order of 1.90% of the labour force in 1993-94 has gone up to around 2.23% of the labour force during 1999-2000 as per Usual Status Approach.

(c) The increase or decrease in the unemployment rate will depend upon the growth of the economy and special policy intervention made to create additional employments opportunities.

ESI Model Hospitals

859. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up ESI model hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many States have so far given their consent for setting up of ESI model hospitals; and

(d) by when Government are going to bring in a legislation before Parliament for setting up of the Employees States Insurance Corporation in order to improve the medical services delivery system under the ESI Scheme in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ESI Corporation has decided in principle to set up one Model Hospital in each State. Details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan have given consent for setting up Model Hospitals in their States.